

SENATE BILL 1213

By Crutchfield

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to postsecondary  
financial assistance from net lottery proceeds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-931(a)(4), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(4) Attend an eligible postsecondary institution and attempt at least twelve (12) semester hours;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-931(b), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(b) A nontraditional student shall be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship at the end of the semester in which the student has attempted a total of twelve (12) semester hours, if the student has a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75. A nontraditional student who does not achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 at the end of the semester in which the student has attempted a total of twelve (12) semester hours shall be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, if the student achieves the required cumulative grade point average at the end of any semester in which eligibility is reviewed under § 49-4-911.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-931, is amended by adding the following language as new, appropriately designated subsections:

( ) THEC, in the report required under § 49-4-903(b), shall report the number of nontraditional students receiving Tennessee HOPE scholarships under the provisions of this part, the scholarship retention rate, the dropout rate and reasons, if known, that nontraditional students who are otherwise eligible for scholarships fail to continue in

school, the graduation rate of nontraditional students, including students who fail to maintain the scholarship, the number of nontraditional students for each marital status indicated on the FAFSA, the number of nontraditional students with children, the income levels of nontraditional students and the scholarship retention rate by income level, the number of nontraditional students in ranges of age of five (5) years length beginning with twenty-five (25) years of age, the institutions attended by nontraditional students, and such other information that would be useful to the general assembly in reviewing the Tennessee HOPE scholarship program for nontraditional students.

( ) The financial aid offices of eligible public postsecondary institutions and other appropriate institutional departments and offices shall provide outreach programs for students who may qualify as nontraditional students. Such programs shall include, but not be limited to, orientation to postsecondary campuses, assistance with application processes and filing a FAFSA, and information concerning the Tennessee HOPE scholarship for nontraditional students. At least one (1) outreach program shall be conducted each year. The outreach program shall be advertised in the postsecondary institution's community, as reasonably necessary to reach nontraditional students who would be likely to attend the institution, through a variety of media, which may include, but shall not be limited to, print media, billboards, radio, and television.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-932, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

( ) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, nontraditional students shall be encouraged to avail themselves of the services offered to potential lottery scholarship recipients on any lottery scholarship day conducted by TSAC. TSAC shall advertise lottery scholarship day as a source of information and assistance to nontraditional students, as reasonably necessary to reach nontraditional students who

would be likely to attend lottery scholarship day, through a variety of media, which may include, but shall not be limited to, print media, billboards, radio, and television.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.

Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall apply to students seeking postsecondary financial assistance from net lottery proceeds for the 2007-2008 academic year and academic years thereafter.